

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, August 12. 1708.

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**W**E have long been poring on the Part of the War that is next us, and the Affair of *Flanders* takes up all our Thoughts; I have given my Opinion upon that Matter, with as much Freedom as can well be desir'd, viz. That all Things are well on that side; and if we will be govern'd by what can be done, rather than by what we would have done, I doubt not, but with the Addition of some Patience, Things will do very well on that side, and before the Campaign is over, some People may have Occasion to blush a little at their own Conduct, or give Occasion to their Friends to blush for them.

Let us now look a little to the remoter Parts of the War, and from whence we have had but small Expectations— And first

to the Affairs of *Italy*; We really find the Imperialists so strong in *Italy*, that it cannot but be Matter of Wonder to us, that they should have gone no farther than they have, or at least that they should suffer themselves to be so weak, and be so much insulted in other Places, while they spare such a very great Force in a Part of the World, where we are apt to say, there cannot be an equal Occasion for so many Troops; the Uneasiness of the Emperor's Affairs in other Places being consider'd— To make this out, let us take a short View of the Forces; as they have been in *Italy*, and as they now are.

What they were last Year, may be guess'd at from the following Deductions, and the present Account— And first we find, the

the *Hessians* recall'd, which were at least 8000 effective Men, they should have been more, had they been recruited, but so many it will be allow'd, they march'd back— Then the *Palatine* Troops, with some of the Emperor's who were first sent to *Catalonia*, were 7900 Men, and now 7000 more; 12000 Imperialists in Conjunction with the D. of *Modena*, are said to be employ'd in the Expedition against the Pope in the *Ferrareze*, and at least 16000 first and last have been sent to *Naples*; after all this, if our Accounts are true, the Duke of *Savoy* has yet with him of Imperial Troops, over and above the 8000 *Prussians*, which are indeed *English* Troops, as they are paid by *England*, 14264 Men; if these are put together, then the Emperor had in the Field the last Campaign, just before the Siege of *Toulon*, leaving out the odd Numbers, 65000 Men, which, with the Duke of *Savoy's* Troops, viz. 12000, make 77000 Men, without reckoning the large Garrisons of *Turin*, *Millain*, *Mantua*, and all the Fortifications on the Frontiers from *Susa*, on the side of *Savoy* to the *Adige*, which are for Number incredible.

It is not very difficult for us to find a Reason, why the Emperor bends his Force so eagerly upon *Italy*, tho' at the same time he leaves himself naked enough on the several other Parts of his Government— *Italy* is a sweet Morsel, and the like Opportunity of obtaining it in the entire Possession of the House of *Austria* never was in the World, and it may be very probable, never may offer it self again. The Consequence of it is such, that the Empire sticks not to be expos'd to *Hungarian* Ravages on one side, *Swedish* Affronts on another, and *French* Invasions on a third; and rather bears the Inconveniences on that side, than omits pursuing his Advantages over the *Italian* Princes, whom if he can entirely subje&th, it is shutting fast a Back-Door, that has often let in Mischiefs sufficient to embarrass the whole Empire, and might, as Occasion offer'd, do so again.

I shall not determine here, whether these Measures are for the Advantage of the common Cause now in hand or no; it is without doubt, that the securing *Italy* from

*French* Influence, is the particular Interest of the whole Confederacy; but as the Interest of *France* seems to be entirely sunk in *Italy*, methinks the Work might be done without such a great Force, for you see, *Naples* is reduc'd, *Mantua* possess'd, and most of *Italy* is kept in Awe; but what need was there of this new Quarrel with the Pope?— I know, we are mighty glad of hearing the Catholick Princes are falling out with the Pope, in hope the great Prophecies, which we say relate to her in the Scripture, shall come to pass; but what shall we say, if this Quarrel with the Pope shall open a new Door for the *French* into *Italy*; and if the *French* should have but so much Liberty from other Embarrassments, as to be able to send 15 or 20000 Men to the Assistance of the Pope, and so cut off the Emperor's Communication with *Naples*, again, it would not be so difficult a Thing, as some People imagine, to make another Revolution in *Naples*, where if the *French* Accounts are true, the *Germans* have not behaved themselves so gently, but that the *Neapolitans* begin to be very weary of them.

Nor is it enough to say, the *French* have no Forces to spare; for if the *Spanish* Plate Fleet should come in, and he can but send Money to the Pope, his Holiness may raise 20000 *Swiss*, perhaps sooner than any Prince in the World; at least this would kindle a new Flame in *Italy*, which I cannot think it is the Interest of the Emperor so to do at this Time: Again, the Princes of *Italy* are jealous of the Greatness of the Emperor there, and the States of *Venice* and *Genoa*, especially the latter have smarted under that Greatness already; all these Considerations make me think, it cannot pass for a prudent Thing in the Imperialists to fall out with the Pope at this Time; let this Work be over a little, and let *France* be a little farther humbled, and then have at the old Father, and welcome.

The present Work seems to be pushing into *France*— The Designs of the Confederates seem to point at it on all sides; the Elector of *Hannover* has a Majority on the *Rhine*, and he is on his March; the Duke of *Savoy* is the Field, and he is pushing at it;



it; and all this is the Effect of the Battle of *Audenard*, which some People will not have be a Victory. Now certainly had the Troops, which we are told are employ'd in the *Ferrareze*, join'd the Duke of *Savoy*, had the Jealousie of the *Italian* Princes and States been unprovok'd, that the Emperor being assur'd of them behind, might have drain'd his Garrisons, and strengthened the Duke of *Savoy* with all his Forces on that side, the Superiority of the Duke of *Savoy* had been such, that the *French* on that side could not have look'd him in the Face. It is true, the Duke of *Savoy* has a greater Army than it was expected, considering the calling back the *Hessians*, the dismissing the *Palatines*, and the new Troops sent to

*Spain*——But I will not venture to say, the Duke of *Savoy* is superiour to the *French*, either in Numbers or the Goodness of Troops; he has 22000 *Germans*, and 12000 *Savoyards*, according to the publick Accounts——The first are without doubt good Troops; but as for the Duke of *Savoy's* own Troops, they are counted but very indifferent People, and never were reckon'd to be of much Consequence; the *French* Troops on that side are some of the best in his Armies, and the *Mareschal Villars* one of the greatest Generals he has; and I cannot say, that I am not in some Pain for Things on that side——I shall say more here after.

## MISCELLANEA.

IN the last *Miscellanea*, I began an Abridgment of the State of the Church Affairs in *Scotland*, in order to come to the great Question about Persecution there, which is now brought on the Stage again in that Part of the World——I told you, how after the Revolution in 1689, Episcopacy being depos'd, Presbytery establish'd, and all the Ministers, who were Episcopal, began to be turn'd out, the Government both in Church and State being restor'd, the People there did not proceed to Extremities, in the entirely deposing all that would not conform, but by Act of Parliament settled the Oath of Allegiance to be the only Qualification of a Minister as to Government.

This effectually put a Stop to the Pre-terence of Persecution, and made this Consequence be most natural, viz. That none but *Jacobites* could be *Dissenters*, since none could be put out, tho' they were Episcopal, if they would take the Oaths——And this being in the Year 1695, I may defy all the World to show me a Man, among all the Episcopal Ministers in *Scotland*, that was depos'd for being Episcopal, but that if he would qualifie himself by taking the Oaths, he continued to enjoy his Pulpit, and his Stipend, and does so, if he living, to this Hour.

We come now to the *Dissenters*, who were such for this Article of refusing the Oath, I think, I in no wise scandalize them in giving them the vulgar Appellation of *Jacobites*; for tho' it be a Kind of Nick-Name on our Part, the thing it self on their Part is their profess'd Principle, their Glory; they are far from denying the Thing, but they think it their Duty, and adhere to it as such on all Occasions, positively refusing to swear to the present Government, or abjure the last.

Nor can I help doing this Justice to these People, viz. that to me they seem much honest Men, less to be blam'd, and better to be thought of, who making it Matter of Conscience openly profess and own themselves *Jacobites*, and act as such fairly, If I may be allow'd to call it so, telling you what they are, and what you are to expect from them, than that wicked, cursed and abominable Race of Men among us, call'd *High Flyers*, who pretending to own the Government, swear to the Queen, abjure King *James*, and swallow all the Tests or Oaths you can put to them, and at the same time betray you to the Interest of the other Party, act in all Cases against the Government they swear to, encourage *Jacobitism*,

*Jacobitism*, and to their utmost expose, affront and insult the Government; these, as I have at large frequently said, are the worst Sort of Traytors, private Enemies that lie in wait for the Ruin of their Country, and under the Mask of Zeal for the Government, betray it to its worst Enemies. *But this by the Way.*

There being a Party in *Scotland*, who after the said Act of Parliament it *Scotland* refus'd even the single Qualification of swearing Allegiance to the Government; these sorting together became a Body, and by their Practice obtain'd and were distinguish'd by the Name, not of *Dissenters*, not of *Episcopal* Ministers—but of the *Jacobite* Clergy—Nor can I think them injur'd in the Appellation, nor do I find they reckon themselves injur'd in it—and therefore I shall not think, I maltreat them; in distinguishing them by that Name in the ensuing Narration, for I am not desirous to do them any Wrong, much less insult them, I am only giving, as near as I can, a true genuine State of their Case, as succinct and as direct as I can, and in which I shall be rather an Historian, than a Remarker upon the Case.

The *Jacobite* Clergy then, as I am now to call them, having been depos'd by the Change of the Church Government, and of the Civil Government in *Scotland*—I come next to enquire into two Things.

1. How they have behav'd themselves to the Government, whether Ecclesiastick or Civil?
2. How the Government has behav'd to them—and both from the Revolution to this Time.

But this must be the Subject of several Papers, I shall be as concise as I can.

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